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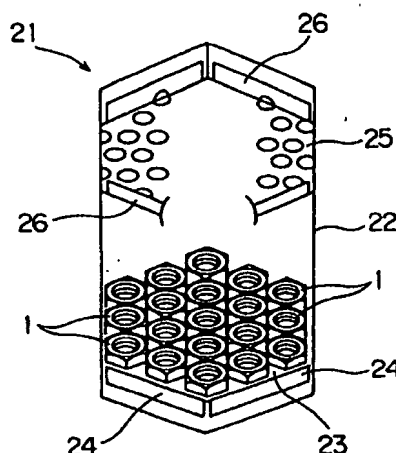
(54) **FIELD CONVERTER AND FLUID PROCESSING DEVICE USING THE CONVERTER**

(57) The present invention relates to a field converter capable of varying a surrounding space thereof into a state suitable for peoples, animals and plants by acting on the peripheral space. The present invention also relates to a fluid processing device using the field converter, which is usable for processing liquid and gas.

The present invention is that hexagon nut shaped material pieces of stainless steel and the like are heat-treated and oriented such that the material pieces form up into a kind of concentric circles and make single plane, with drawing lines linked the center points of the

hexagonal nut shaped material pieces positioned the outermost circumferentially periphery of the concentric arrangement forming up into an equilateral hexagon and such arrangement is retained. Also, a fluid processing device comprises hollow container that such field converter is positioned in.

The field converter is usable as a device to create a space for reducing stress in peoples and animals. The fluid processing device is usable as water supply equipment in order to reduce odor exhaled by hogger, and also usable for processing beverages for people.



**Fig. 3**

**Description****FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

5 [0001] The present invention relates to a field converter comprising an arrangement of material pieces of which shape is a hexagonal prism. The field converter is a device capable of varying a surrounding space thereof into a state suitable for people, animals and plants by affecting such surrounding space. Further, the present invention relates to a fluid processing device for processing liquid or gas, which utilizes the field converter. Moreover, the present invention relates to fluid processed by the fluid processing device.

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**BACKGROUND ART**

[0002] For example, it is said that the space in a pyramidal-shape structure is somehow different from the outside space and the space enhances human thinking ability, and improves vitality of human beings, animals and plants. It is said that pyramidal-shaped structures have an ability to affect the space thereof. In the present invention and this specification, such an instrument that affects the surrounding space of the instrument, is called a field converter. The mechanism by which a field converter functions has been attempted to be explained from a view point of "wave motion", "unrecognized inherent energy", "spatial energy" etc. However, enough explanation is not given under current scientific knowledge.

20 [0003] Another example of a field converter is "MAITAN". MAITAN is a process wherein more than 500 1 charcoal each, total more than 1, 000 1 are buried in several holes that are column shaped having about a 1 m diameter and 1 m of depth in the ground. As a consequence, the space above the MAITAN area is converted.

[0004] Another example is disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. H7-4084. That is a treatment room for patients, which is surrounded with boards having through-holes of hexagonal shape.

25 [0005] These conventional field converters need large capacity surroundings for the space expecting conversion and also big facilities. In addition they require significant labor to make.

[0006] Therefore, it is an object of this invention to obtain a small field converter that is capable of converting the surrounding space thereof. Another object of this invention is that to obtain a field converter that requires minimal labor to set up. A further object of this invention is to obtain a fluid processing device that utilizes an ability of the surrounding space converting that the field converter possesses. Moreover, the present invention is directed to the fluid provided by such fluid processing device.

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**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

35 (Field converter)

[0007] An invention set forth in claim 1 is a field converter comprising a certain number of material pieces having an external shape of an equilateral hexagonal prism, oriented in an arrangement such that the central axes thereof are parallel with each other, and this arrangement is retained. In the present invention and in this specification, the central axis means an axis that is parallel to six sides of the equilateral hexagonal prism and perpendicular to the base and top of both sides of the equilateral hexagonal prism.

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[0008] An example of this material piece is a hexagon nut. Namely, the material piece has a hole penetrating through the top and the base. The hole has an annular section. Also, the hole has a spiral groove on the internal surface thereof. Material of the material piece is austenitic stainless steel, martensitic stainless steel, platinum, gold, silver, titanium or diamonds. Also, the material piece is heat-treated.

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[0009] This material piece itself has the ability of field conversion. Because such plural material pieces are oriented in the same direction, and retain this arrangement, the field conversion abilities of the plural material pieces composing the converter are gathered and cooperate with each other.

[0010] An invention set forth in claim 2, is the field converter as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the certain number of material pieces having the same shape and same size as each other, and holes having a circular prism shape with a central axis which is identical with the central axis of the overall material piece. Also, concerning the arrangement of the plural material pieces, the bases of the plural material pieces make one imaginary plane, and the sides of the material pieces are adjacent to each other. Because the material pieces are arranged with the sides of material pieces adjacent to each other, the ability of field conversion of the material pieces concentrates so that the ability of the field converter becomes stronger.

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[0011] In the present invention, the phrase "sides of the material pieces adjacent to each other" means the distance between the center of two material pieces put side by side in the arrangement, is equal to or less than 3 times the length (1) of one side of a cross section of the equilateral hexagonal prism thereof. In addition, the phrase includes both

the arrangement wherein the sides of the material pieces come close each other and the arrangement wherein the sides of material pieces touch each other.

**[0012]** An invention set forth in claim 3 is a field converter as defined in one of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that, the arrangement is such that, the material pieces therein are formed into kind of concentric circle, and a drawing line linked projected points, which are caused that the central axis of the outermost circumferentially located plural material pieces of said kind of concentric circle are projected to a imaginary plane which is perpendicular to the axis of the material piece, forms into an equilateral hexagon. Because the plural material pieces are arranged in concentric equilateral hexagon, the ability of field conversion of the material pieces becomes more concentration. Therefore, the ability of the field converter becomes stronger.

**[0013]** In the present invention, if the material pieces are oriented in an arrangement having a level surface, a drawing line linked center points of the material pieces of the outermost circumferentially located plural material pieces, forms into an equilateral hexagon. If the material pieces are oriented in an arrangement having an uneven surface, a drawing line linked projected points, which are caused that the central axes of the outermost circumferentially located plural material pieces of said kind of concentric circle are projected to an imaginary plane which is perpendicular to the axis of the material piece, forms into an equilateral hexagon. The expression of the imaginary plane "which is perpendicular to the central axis of the material piece" can be expressed, in other words, the imaginary plane "which is parallel to the base of the material piece".

**[0014]** An invention set forth in claim 4, is a field converter characterized in that, a plurality of the field converters as defined in one of claims 1 to 3, wherein these field converters are piled one on top of the other. Because the number of material pieces increases, the ability of the field converter becomes stronger.

**[0015]** An invention set forth in claim 5 is a field converter characterized in that, a plurality of the field converters as defined in claim 3 are piled such that, one on top of the other, and central axes of the central material pieces of said kind of concentric circle arrangement thereof, are generally aligned. Because plural center of the equilateral hexagons of the material pieces align, the ability of the field converter becomes stronger.

**[0016]** An invention set forth in claim 6 is a field converter as defined in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that, material of the material piece is SUS304 stainless steel. According to the invention, a nut of SUS304 stainless steel which is an article on the market, can be employed as the material piece. Therefore, the field converter is provided at lower price.

**[0017]** An invention set forth in claim 7 is a field converter as defined one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that, the material pieces are heat-treated in a heating temperature equal to or more than 800 °C, for a duration equal to or more than 5 minutes. By heat-treating in this range, the ability of the field converter becomes stronger.

**[0018]** An invention set forth in claim 8, is the field converter as defined in one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that, the length of a side of the equilateral hexagon being designated as a cross section of the equilateral hexagonal prism of the material piece, is equal to or less than 10 mm, and the height of the equilateral hexagonal prism is shorter than the length of the side. When a material piece of this size range is utilized, the ability of the field converter becomes stronger.

**[0019]** An invention set forth in claim 9 is a field converter as defined in one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that, the spiral groove of the internal perimeter surface of the hole of the material piece has a triangle screw shape. A spiral groove of this shape can be manufactured cheaply. As a result, a field converter can be obtained at lower cost.

**[0020]** An invention set forth in claim 10 is a field converter comprising an airtight container made from SUS304 stainless steel in which a field converter as defined one of claims 1 to 9, is positioned. Because the field converter is sealed in an airtight container, handling thereof becomes easier. In addition, because the container is made of stainless steel, the rust of the container can be prevented.

**[0021]** The material piece using the present invention is explained as follows. Fig. 1 (a) is a surface view of a material piece and (b) is a front view of a material piece. The material piece 1 is equal to a hexagon nut in shape. Namely, the external shape of material piece 1 is an equilateral hexagonal prism. A top and a base of the material piece 1 may be finished with chamfering or without chamfering. Fig. 1 shows the shape with chamfering.

**[0022]** The material piece 1 has a hole 4 having annular section, penetrating through a top 2 and a base 3. The hole may be a normal circular prism or inclined circular prism. The inclined circular prism means both ends (i.e. the top and base of the material piece) are parallel and both ends are not perpendicular to a central axis of the prism. The normal circular prism is preferable.

**[0023]** In addition, the hole may be positioned in a center of the equilateral hexagonal prism or in an eccentric location. The hole positioned in a center is preferable. Because the material piece shown in Fig. 1 has the hole positioned in a center of the equilateral hexagonal prism (i.e., external shape of the material piece), a central axis 7 of the hole 4 is equal to the central axis 7 of the equilateral hexagonal prism. A point 6 shows the projection point of the central axis 7. A spiral groove 5 is carved within the internal perimeter surface of the hole 4. A point 8 is a projection point of center point of material piece 1. As described above, the point 6 is a projection point of central axis 7, also, the point 6 is a projection point of center point of the material piece 1.

**[0024]** Material of the material piece 1 is chosen from austenitic stainless steel, martensitic stainless steel, platinum, gold, silver, titanium or diamond. Austenitic stainless steel is an alloy of iron 72%, nickel 8%, chrome 18% and other metallic elements, and includes SUS304, SUS316, SUS303, SUS301, SUS302, SUS201 and the like. Martensitic stainless steel is an alloy of iron 85%, chrome 13% and other metallic elements, and includes SUS410, SUS416, SUS420J2, and the like. Diamond includes natural diamond and synthetic diamond.

**[0025]** Preferable material of the material piece is austenitic stainless steel, martensitic stainless steel, and titanium, more preferable material is austenitic stainless steel, and particularly preferable material is SUS304, from the viewpoint of procurement with lower cost.

**[0026]** The material piece 1 gains the ability of field conversion by heat-treating. The temperature for heat-treating the material piece 1 is generally equal to or more than 800 °C, preferably 900 - 1500 °C, particularly preferably 1000 - 1200 °C. However, the heat-treating is made below the melting point temperature of the material of the material piece 1.

**[0027]** Duration of the heat-treatment is generally equal to or more than 5 minutes, preferably equal to or more than 10 minutes, more preferably 10 - 120 minutes, particularly preferably 30 - 90 minutes. The combination of temperature and duration of the heat-treatment, is preferably 1000 - 1200 °C and 30 - 90 minutes. Cooling time after heat-treating does not have a particular requirement. Therefore cooling under room temperature can be done. Passivation may or may not be done to stainless steel after heat-treating.

**[0028]** The size of the material piece 1 is not limited in particular. However, length of one side (arrow 1 in Fig. 1) of the equilateral hexagon is generally equal to or less than 10 mm, and preferably equal to or less than 6 mm, more preferably equal to or less than 5 mm. Also, height (arrow h in Fig. 1) of the material piece 1 does not have any limit in particular. However, the height h is generally equal to or less than the length of one side 1, preferably equal to or less than  $1 \times 0.85$ .

**[0029]** The number of circlings of the spiral groove carved within the internal perimeter surface of the hole of the material piece 1 is equal to or more than one. There is no upper limit for the number of circlings of the spiral groove in particular. The depth of the spiral groove does not have any limit in particular.

**[0030]** The shape of the groove is expressed as the shape of the screw thread. A groove having a triangular screw thread or a screw thread of trapezoidal shape can be used. The triangular screw thread includes the thread having an angle of 60 degrees, of 55 degrees, and the like. Triangular screw thread is preferable from the viewpoint of lower price and easy procurement.

**[0031]** The arrangement of the material piece 1 is explained, as follows. The field converter of the present invention is that the plural material pieces are oriented such that the central axis (7 of fig. 1) of each material piece is parallel to each other. In other words, each of the bases of the plural material pieces becomes parallel with one imaginary plane. The plural material pieces may be oriented such that the material pieces are uneven in relation to each other. Or, they may be oriented such that the plural bases of the material pieces make a single imaginary plane. The preferred arrangement is the arrangement such that the plural bases of the material pieces make a single imaginary plane.

**[0032]** The plural material pieces that are employed in a single field converter may be any of the following:

- (i) the outside dimension of each material piece is different from each other;
- (ii) the outside dimension of each material piece is the same, and size of each of the holes of each material piece is different from each other;
- (iii) the outside dimension and the size of the hole of each material piece is the same, and the shape of the internal spiral groove for each material piece is different from each other; or
- (iv) the size and the shape are the same for each material piece. The preferred is (iv).

**[0033]** The plural material pieces can be oriented so as to have distance between the material pieces, or have the material pieces adjacent to one another or be in contact with each other in a single arrangement. The preferable arrangement is having adjacent material pieces, and the more preferable arrangement is having the material pieces being in contact with each other. The arrangement pattern can be an arbitrary pattern such as a random arrangement, a lattice-shaped arrangement, and a kind of concentric circle arrangement.

**[0034]** Fig. 2 is a perspective diagram showing an example of the arrangement of the material pieces. It shows a kind of concentric circle arrangement. Plural material pieces 1 are oriented in the shape of a plane, and bases 3 of the material pieces 1 make one imaginary plane p. A material piece 11 is put in the center of the arrangement, and six material pieces 12 are oriented in the circumference. A drawing line linked the center points of the material pieces 12 put in the outermost circumference, forms up into an equilateral hexagon. Such equilateral hexagonal arrangement is hereinafter called OHA (Orthodox-Hexagonal Arrangement).

**[0035]** In fig. 2, seven in total of the material pieces are employed in OHA. However, more circumference can be added, in such cases the total number of the material pieces employed are 19, 37, 61, 91, 127

**[0036]** In addition, the concentric circle arrangement includes the arrangement such that three material pieces are oriented at a most inner circumference. In such case, a drawing line linked the center of the material pieces put in the

outermost circumference, forms up into an equilateral triangle. Preferred arrangement is OHA.

[0037] The present invention comprises the arrangement of the material piece in a single plane. However, a single field converter can be made such that the arrangements are stacked one on top of the other. The number of stacks does not have any limit in particular, and an arbitrary number of arrangements in the single plane can be stacked up. The preferable stacked-up pattern is such that the constituent arrangements have OHA, and the center point of each OHA is aligned in the top and base direction. In other words, the stacked-up pattern is such that the central axes 7 of the material piece 1 placed in the center of each arrangement form an imaginary single straight line. The imaginary straight line of the central axes 7 formed becomes approximately straight when in order to hold a stacked-up pattern, a box which receives the material pieces with some differential margin, is employed.

[0038] The preferable stacked-up pattern, includes a stacked-up pattern of one to accord with an equilateral hexagon up and down, and a twisted equilateral hexagon of the OHAs. The most preferable stacked-up pattern is the one to accord with an equilateral hexagon up and down.

[0039] In order to hold the arrangement, various kinds of well-known structures and methods can be employed. The example of such structures and methods are as follows:

A structure to pack the material pieces into a box having a shape of an equilateral hexagonal prism so that the material pieces are oriented into the above-mentioned arrangement, and to cover the box of top and base with lids;  
A structure to orient the material pieces in a box of which the particular shape is not required, and to fill filling up materials in the gap of the box so that the material pieces are pressed from upside, bottom, right and left thereof, consequently the arrangement is held;

A structure to fix the plural material pieces to a bolt, and to fix such plural bolts with a tool for unity;

A method to fix material piece with adhesive on a board; and

A method to fix material pieces with adhesive to each other.

When structure to pack the material pieces into a box is adopted, there may be some differential margin between a box and material pieces. Or, there may be no differential margin. If there is some differential margin, a work to pack the material pieces into the box becomes easy.

[0040] The field converter of the present invention can be used as the form of the arrangement itself, or it can be used as packed in a container. Material of the container is not any limit in particular. For example, container made of metal, synthetic resin, glass, wood and the like can be employed. Container made of metal is preferable, in the light of easy forming and durability, stainless steel is more preferable, in the light of being rust proof, SUS304 is particularly preferable in the light of easy procurement.

[0041] The container may be sealed or opened to outside. It is preferable to be sealed in the light of avoiding dust.

(Fluid processing device)

[0042] An invention set forth in claim 11, is that of a fluid processing device comprising, a hollow container having an intake and an outlet, wherein the field converter as defined one of claims 1 to 9 is positioned in said container. In the fluid processing device, processed fluid passes close to the field converter. Therefore, the fluid processing device can change the nature of the processed fluid.

[0043] Shapes of the hollow container include, for example, a hollow column shape (e.g. a column, a quadratic prism, etc.) and a funnel shape. The fluid includes gas, liquid (including solution, suspension, colloidal solution, mixture with liquid and particles) and super critical fluid. The material of the hollow container is not limited in particular. For example, metal, synthetic resin, glass, wood and the like can be employed. Metal is preferable, in the light of easy forming and durability. Stainless steel is more preferable, in the light of being rust proof. SUS304 is particularly preferable in the light of easy procurement.

[0044] The hollow container may be equipped with a distinguishable intake and outlet, or may be equipped with two entrances, one of which is used as an intake, and the other is used as an outlet.

[0045] An invention set forth in the claim 12 is a fluid processing device as defined in claim 11, characterized in that, the central axes of the material pieces being constituent of the field converter, is generally aligned with a principal stream direction of processed fluid which passes through said container. In the fluid processing device, processed fluid passes into the field converter. Therefore, the fluid processing device can change the nature of the processed fluid more effectively.

[0046] An invention set forth in claim 13 is a fluid processing device as defined in claim 12, characterized in that, the fluid is liquid, and the fluid processing device is connected to a service pipe to supply said liquid, and said liquid is pressurized comparing with surrounding atmospheric pressure in said pipe. Because the intake and the outlet of the fluid processing device are connected directly into a service pipe of processed fluid, the processing operation becomes easy, and the processed liquid is supplied easily in a wide area.

[0047] The liquid that is pressurized comparing with atmospheric pressure includes, for example:

- tap water pressurized at water purification plants;
- well water which it is pumped up to a water tower, and is pressurized by gravity;
- 5 beverage stationed in a tank, and pressurized by gravity; and
- fuel (including gasoline, light oil, fuel alcohol) of an internal combustion engine pressurized by a fuel pump.

(Processed fluid)

10 [0048] An invention set forth in claim 14, is fluid being passed through the fluid processing device as defined one of claims 11 to 13. The fluid includes gas, liquid (including solution, suspension, colloid solution, mixture with liquid and particles) and super critical fluid. Also, the fluid includes one passed a single time through the fluid processing device and one passed through multiple times. Multiple times passage processing may be done by repeating single time processing, or by making a closed flow path intervened with the device, and circulating the fluid therein.

15 [0049] An example of the fluid is a beverage of which taste is varied in comparison with before processing. Another example is water with suppressed microorganism's propagation resulting from the processing.

[0050] An invention set forth in claim 15, is the fluid as defined in claim 14, characterized in that, the fluid is water. The water includes drinking water for human beings and domestic animals, distilled water, and water for plant culture.

## 20 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0051]

- Fig. 1 is a surface view (a) and a side view (b) of the material piece.
- 25 Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing an example of the arrangement of the material pieces.
- Fig. 3 is a partially cutaway perspective view of the field converter (1).
- Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the field converter (3).
- Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the field converter (4).
- Fig. 6 is a sectional view of the fluid processing device.
- 30 Fig. 7 is a sectional view taken on line A-B of Fig. 6.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

35 [0052] The field converter and the fluid processing device of the present invention is explained further, referring to figures. The description in the following embodiments, experiments and application examples, is mere illustration and does not limit the scope of the present invention in any manner, such as dimensions of parts and members, materials, shape, and relative positions, unless it is specifically mentioned otherwise.

(Example 1 of the embodiment)

40 [0053] Fig. 3 is a partially cutaway perspective view of the field converter (1). In Fig. 3, plural 1 represent material pieces, 22 represents an equilateral hexagonal prism shaped hollow case, 23 represents a bottom plate and 25 represents a top plate.

45 [0054] The material pieces 1 have an external shape of an equilateral hexagonal prism, of which length of one side (1) is 3mm, height (h) is 2.4mm, and diameter of a hole is 3mm. The hole's position is in the center of the equilateral hexagonal prism and has the shape of a normal circular prism. A spiral groove of the internal perimeter surface of the hole is meter coarse screw thread. Material of the material piece 1 is SUS304. The material pieces are oriented after heat-treating and cooling.

50 [0055] The case 22, the bottom plate 23 and the top plate 25 are made of a thin board of SUS304. The bottom plate 23 and the top plate 25, have many through holes of a diameter of 3mm. A part of the through holes of the top plate 25 is omitted in the figure.

[0056] A peripheral portion 24 of the bottom plate 23 is bent and that is secured to a base part of the case 22 by welding in part. Nineteen pieces of the material piece 1 are oriented as OHA on the bottom plate 24. These nineteen pieces compose one step, and nine steps thereof are piled up. (The second through ninth steps are not illustrated in the figure.) The total number of the material pieces 1 is one hundred seventy-one (171) pieces. OHA of each step piled up such that the centers of the concentric circles generally align. Therefore, the central axes 7 of the material pieces 1 oriented at the center in each step, form an imaginary approximately straight line.

[0057] A peripheral portion 26 of the top plate 25 is bent and that is secured to a top part of the case 22 by welding

in part. As of the outside dimension of the case 22, one side length of the equilateral hexagonal prism is 15mm, height is 31mm and distance of the top plate 25 from the bottom plate 23 is 22mm. In the case 22, nineteen (19) pieces of the material piece 1 are received in the arrangement of OHA. The second step to the nineteenth step is the same. By securing the arm side cover, the bottom plate 23 and the top plate 25, movement of the material pieces 1 are hindered,

so that the arrangement is retained.  
**[0058]** The filed converter 1 is placed in an air tight container, in the shape of an equilateral hexagonal prism (hereinafter called the field converter (2)), and is employed in the application example mentioned below. Material of the airtight container is SUS304.

(Example 2 of the embodiment)

**[0059]** Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the field converter (3). In fig. 4, 1 represent material pieces, 31 represents a cylindrical lower case and 32 represents a cylindrical top case.

**[0060]** The material, the size and the shape of material piece 1 are the same as the material pieces employed in field converter (1). The material pieces are oriented after heat-treating and cooling.

**[0061]** The lower case 31 and the top case 32 are made of a thin board of SUS304. A bottom plate 35 of the lower case 31 and a top plate 33 of the top case 32, have many through holes of a diameter of 3mm. A part of the through holes of the top plate 33 is omitted in the figure.

**[0062]** In the lower case 31, thirty-seven (37) pieces of the material piece 1 are oriented as OHA. These thirty-seven (37) pieces compose one step, and three steps thereof are piled up. The total number of the material pieces 1 is one hundred eleven (111) pieces. Only the third step appears in the figure. OHA of each step is stacked up such that the center of the concentric circle generally aligns. Therefore, the central axes 7 of the material piece 1 oriented at the center in each step, form an imaginary approximately straight line.

**[0063]** The top case 32 is fitted into the lower case 31 and secured by screwing screw bolts to the screw holes that are formed on the case side. 34 represent filler made by SUS304. The filler is filled with a gap between the arm side cover of the lower case 31 and the material pieces 1. The outside dimensions of the lower case 33, are diameter 63mm and height 9mm. Movement of the material pieces 1 are hindered by the arrangement of the arm side cover of the lower case, the filler 34, the bottom plate 35 and the top plate 33, so the above-mentioned arrangement of the material pieces 1 is retained.

**[0064]** The field converter (3) as it is or positioned in a container, is used as a field converter. In addition, it may be housed in a hollow container, and employed as a fluid processing device.

(Example 3 of the embodiment)

**[0065]** Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the field converter (4).

**[0066]** The material piece 1 has an external shape of an equilateral hexagonal prism, of which length of one side (1) is 5mm, height (h) is 3.8mm, and diameter of a hole is 5mm. The hole is positioned in the center of equilateral hexagonal prism and has the shape of a normal circular prism. A spiral groove of the internal perimeter surface of the hole is meter coarse screw thread. Material of the material piece 1 is SUS304. The material pieces are oriented after heat-treating and cooling.

**[0067]** In the figure, 41 represents a bolt that has long leg and of which head shape is six angles. The bolt 41 is made of SUS304. A spiral groove of material piece 1 is threadingly engaged to the bolt 41. Thus, nine (9) material pieces are secured to the one bolt 41.

**[0068]** The seven (7) bolts that threadingly engaged the material pieces 1 are oriented in order that bases of each material piece make imaginary one plane and are bundled and fixed together with tying bands 42. The total number of the material pieces 1 is sixty-three (63) pieces. The tying bands 42 are made of synthetic resin, sold commercially.

**[0069]** Field converter 4 shown in Fig. 5 is placed in an air tight container, the shape of which is an equilateral hexagonal prism (hereinafter called the field converter (5)), and is employed in the application example mentioned below. Material of the airtight container is SUS304.

**[0070]** Further, the seven (7) bolts may be oriented such that the bases of each material piece are uneven in relation to each other. In this case, a drawing line linked projected points, which are caused that the central axes of the six (6) bolts located circumference are projected on an imaginative plane that is parallel to the bases of the material pieces, forms an equilateral hexagon.

**[0071]** Material of bolt 41 does not have any limit in particular, and may be made of any material such as synthetic resin, wood and the like. In addition, the shape of the head of the bolts 41 does not have any limit in particular. Thus, bolts having arbitrary head shape such as equilateral hexagon, circle, quadrangle and the like can be employed.

(Example 4 of the embodiment)

[0072] Fig. 6 is a sectional view of the fluid processing device. Fig. 7 is a sectional view taken on line A-B of Fig. 6.

[0073] Fluid processing device 51 is a device wherein the field converter (1) 21 is installed inside of a hollow column 52. In the figure, 53 represents a socket and 54 represents a socket. The socket 53 is for intake of fluid and the socket 54 is for outlet of fluid. A section taken on line A-B in Fig. 6 is shown in Fig. 7. Seven (7) of the field converters (1) 21 are installed in the inside of the column 52. An arrow 57 represents direction of stream line of processed fluid, and such direction generally aligns with a direction of central axis of the material pieces 1 in the field converter (1). 55 represent riddle boards that have many through holes of diameter of 3mm. The riddle boards 55 are placed at an upstream side and a downstream side of the field converter (1) 21, for each one piece respectively. Material of the column 52, the sockets 53, 54 and the riddle boards 55 are SUS304.

[0074] The cases of the seven (7) field converters (1) are welded to each other so that they are secured as OHA. The cases are then linked to an inner wall of column 52 by welding at point 56. The fluid processing device 51 consists of two cylindrical segments, after having secured the field converters (1) 21 and the riddle board 55 to the two segments, the two segments are integrated at section N-M, by welding. In addition, the two segments may be integrated in the following manner. At the joining ends of the two cylindrical segments, screws are engraved and tightened accordingly.

[0075] The greatest diameter of the column 52 is 90mm. On internal perimeter surfaces of socket 53, 53, screws are engraved, which can tighten to a water supply pipe.

[0076] The fluid processing device 51 can be intervened directly to a service pipe such a tap water and well water supply pipe that supplies well water being pumped up to a water tower and is pressurized by gravity. Namely, cutting the water supply pipe, an upstream end of the cut pipe is connected to the socket 53, and a downstream end of the cut pipe is connected to the socket 54. The sockets 53, 54 fit water supply pipe having a diameter of 50mm. The fluid processing device 51 can alter water passing through the water supply pipe having a diameter of 50mm.

[0077] Processing objects of the fluid processing device 51 are gas, liquid, a super critical fluid and the like. An example of such a gas is air. Examples of such liquid are drinking water, vegetables juice, fruit juice, and other beverage. By passing citrus juice through the fluid processing device, a change of the taste occurs. Specifically, decreased acidity was observed.

(Example)

[0078] Capability of the field converter was examined changing size and materials of the material piece 1.

[0079] The experiment was carried out using 4 kinds of material piece of SUS304 and 1 material piece of titanium. The external shape of the material pieces was an equilateral hexagonal prism. The length of one side (1) and the diameter of the hole were equal. The material piece used had the hole positioned in the center of the equilateral hexagonal prism, having the shape of a normal circular prism, and having a spiral groove of meter coarse screw thread on the internal perimeter surface of the hole. The material pieces of SUS304 were employed for the experiment after heat-treatment and cooling. The material pieces of titanium having finished solution treatment were purchased.

[0080] On a wooden board, each of nineteen (19) pieces of the above mentioned material piece and also the material piece of SUS304 without heat-treating were oriented as OHA and contacted to each other to make one step. The same steps were stacked up one on top of the other to make three steps (total number of material pieces were fifty-seven (57)). The central material piece of the concentric circle of each step, were aligned as well as the equilateral hexagon shape of each step. The material pieces were fixed temporarily.

[0081] As for the evaluation, sensory analysis whether taste of a sliced lemon changed or not was carried out. Namely, if a sliced lemon piece is left on a field converter for several minutes, sour taste becomes weak, and bitter taste is emphasized. Therefore, slices lemon piece were left on the arrangement of the material pieces for 10 minutes. Three panelers examined change of the taste. ○ indicated that the taste was changed, × indicated that the taste was not changed. In addition, the taste change would appear strong, if lemon employed would be fresh lemon. Therefore, a fresh lemon having green color of its peel was employed for the examination.

Experimental results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

	Example					Comparative Example
Material	SUS304				Titanium	SUS304
Length of one side (l) mm	6	5	4	3	4	3
Height (h) mm	4.5	3.8	3.1	2.4	3.1	2.4



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Table 1 (continued)

	Example					Comparative Example
Material	SUS304				Titanium	SUS304
Panel-1	○	○	○	○	○	×
Panel-2	○	○	○	○	○	×
Panel-3	○	○	○	○	○	×

[0082] A change of taste does not appear in the experiment for comparison that is without heat-treating.

(Application example 1)

[0083] Placing field converter in a vehicle, a change of fuel efficiency was measured.

[0084] In each of two cars, four (4) of the field converter (5)s were placed at four corners of front, rear, right and left and one (1) of the field converter (5) was placed at center (total number were 5 in each car). Examination run took place. The fuel efficiency was measured. Measurements are shown in Table 2.

Table 2

	Vehicle 1	Vehicle 2
Manufacturer	Mitsubishi Motors Corporation	Toyota Motor Corporation
A name of vehicle (registered trademark)	Jeep	Windom
Years from purchase (years)	8	3
Mileage from purchase (about Km)	100,000	30,000
Type of engine	Diesel engine equipped with intercooler turbo charger	Gasoline engine
Displacement volume (L)	2.7	2.5
Mileage of the examination run (Km)	421	470
Fuel efficiency (Km/L) (during examination)	15	8.0
Fuel efficiency (Km/L) (just before the examination)	10	5.8
Fuel efficiency improved more than 30%.		

(Application example 2)

[0085] Placing field converter in a hogger, growth of hog was observed.

[0086] The hogger that the experiment took place located in Kasu-shi, Saitama prefecture. The lot was 240m × 120m, the pigpen was 120m × 80m, number of the total pigs (including hogs and piglet (the same as follows)) is 5000. Four (4) of the field converter (5) s were placed at four corners of the pigpen for each one (1), and four (4) of the field converter (5) s were placed at four corners of the lot for each one (1) (the total number was 8). The death rate and the fattening days of hogs were observed.

The observation period: 1 year from December 2000

The death rate: Less than 0.5%

The fattening days: 170 days (200 days: before field converter was placed)

[0087] The fattening days are the average days needed between shipment to a market and birth of piglet.

[0088] As a result of having installed field converter therein, stress of hogs is reduced, eating of feed improved, and the fattening days decreased. In addition, because the stress of the hogs was reduced, fighting and biting each other occurred rare. Thus, infection of bacteria caused by injury and to end up with death was reduced. It is commonly said that the usual death rate of hogger where field converter is not installed therein is around 15%.

(Application example 3)

[0089] Installing fluid processing device on water supply pipe of a hogger. Such water is used for drinking water of hogs and for cleaning of pigpens, water quality of raw sewage that are mixed of hog waste and pigpen drainage was observed.

[0090] The hogger that the experiment took place located in Saikai-cho, Nagasaki prefecture. The lot was 40m × 120m, the pigpen was 30m × 100m, number of the total pigs is 500. Fluid processing device 51 was installed in the water supply pipe for sending water to the pigpen. The water was well water pumped up to a water tower, and pressurized. And the water that passed through the fluid processing device 51 was used for drinking water of hogs and for cleaning the pigpen.

[0091] The water sample, that was a mixture of hog waste and pigpen drainage was collected at the mouth of the septic tank. The measurement results of the sample water that just before the fluid processing device 51 was installed, and the sample water when 30 days after the fluid processing device 51 has been installed, are shown in Table 3.

Table 3

	Before installation	After installation
PH	7.7	7.4
BOD (mg/L)	2440	1560
COD (mg/L)	1270	880
SS (mg/L)	1840	1100

[0092] As a result of having installed fluid processing device 51, water quality of raw sewage of the pigpen was improved.

(Application example 4)

[0093] Placing field converter and also installing fluid processing device on water supply pipe of hogger, odor exhaled by hogger was measured.

[0094] The hogger that the experiment took place located in Saikai-cho, Nagasaki prefecture. The lot was 40m × 120m, the two pigpens were 30m × 100m each, number of the total pigs is 300. Eight (8) field converters (2) were placed in each pigpen at almost equal distance (the total number was 16). Also, on the same day placing the field converter, the fluid processing device 51 was installed in the water supply pipe for sending water to the pigpens. The water was well water pumped up to a water tower, and pressurized. The water that passed through the fluid processing device 51 was used for drinking water of hogs and for cleaning the pigpens. Sample air was collected between the two pigpens, 110 days later from the day of placing the field converters and installing the fluid processing device.

[0095] As a comparison object, a hogger having similar scale and two pigpens, was chosen. At the almost same time of the same day, sample air for the comparison was collected between the two pigpens of the comparison object hogger.

[0096] The assay of odor concentration carried out in sensory analysis by a three point comparison type smell bag method. For panelers, six people were chosen who have a normal sense of smell (the choice method for panelers used standard liquid smells).

[0097] One set of three smell bags bottled odorless air that passed activated charcoal and sealed. An appropriate amount of the collected sample air was added into one of the three smell bags. The same number of the above-mentioned set of the three smell bags as the number of panelers (6 sets) was made. The panelers (six people) smelled the three smell bags of one set respectively and chose the one bag that it seemed that the sample gas was added. The sensory analysis was continued as the sample air was diluted, till the average accuracy rate of the whole panel became less than 0.58.

[0098] The measurement -results are shown in Table 4.

Table 4

	Installed hogger	Comparative hogger	Means of hogger (number of measurements: 32)
Odor concentration	12	100	79

[0099] Here, odor concentration means the dilution multiple that sample air was diluted with odorless clean air till

having no odor. Bad smell of the hoggerly decreased by placing the field converter, also installing the fluid processing device to water supply pipe of the hoggerly and given the treated water as water to drink.

(Application example 5)

**[0100]** An evaluation examination of sterilization power of the water that passed through the fluid processing device was carried out.

**[0101]** Examined water is the processed tap water that passed through the fluid processing device 51 and passed through activated charcoal in order to remove chlorine. 0.1 ml of fungus liquid having viable cell count  $10^7/\text{ml}$  were inoculated into 10ml of the processed water, and incubated at 20 °C. The viable cell was counted after 1 hour and 3 hours from the inoculation. The viable cell was counted by the way that an appropriate amount of the inoculated water was scattered into culture medium, and cultured, the number of produced colony were counted. In addition, as a control, 0.1ml of fungus liquid were inoculated into 10ml of phosphate buffer (1/15M, pH7.2), and incubated in a like manner. The viable cells were counted after the same time course.

**[0102]** The bacteria employed for the experiment were *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Legionella pneumophila*, and *Salmonella enteritidis*. The culture medium employed in the count of viable cell was standard agar medium (Eiken) and GVPC  $\alpha$  agar medium (Nikkenn seibutu). The viable cell count at the beginning calculated by one of the colony culture examination. The viable cell count after 1 hour and 3 hour from the inoculation was calculated by the means of three of the colony culture examination.

**[0103]** Examination results are shown in Table 5.

Table 5

	At the beginning	After 1 hour		After 3 hours	
		Processed water	Control	Processed water	Control
<i>E. coli</i>	$4.9 \times 10^5$	$3.1 \times 10^5$	$5.6 \times 10^5$	$2.1 \times 10^5$	$5.8 \times 10^5$
<i>St. aureus</i>	$4.8 \times 10^5$	$3.9 \times 10^5$	$4.6 \times 10^5$	$1.6 \times 10^5$	$4.4 \times 10^5$
<i>Leg. pneumophila</i>	$5.6 \times 10^5$	$3.5 \times 10^5$	$5.6 \times 10^5$	$1.4 \times 10^5$	$5.4 \times 10^5$
<i>Sal. enteritidis</i>	$4.7 \times 10^5$	$1.6 \times 10^5$	$4.4 \times 10^5$	$5.2 \times 10^3$	$4.4 \times 10^5$
(Unit: CFU/ml)					

**[0104]** The tap water that passed the fluid processing device showed sterilization ability against the 4 species of bacteria.

Particularly, *Salmonella enteritidis* decreased to about 1% after 3 hours.

(Application example 6)

**[0105]** A hydroponics examination of a plant was carried out in the tap water that passed through fluid processing device.

**[0106]** Leaves of *Angelica keiskei* were employed for the examination. The tap water that passed through the fluid processing device 51 and tap water without passing through were poured in separate vessels. A leaf of *Angelica keiskei* was cut from the base of a leafstalk. The leaf stalk parts were put in the vessels. They were placed in the same place. The changes were observed.

**[0107]** The leaf put in the tap water that passed through the fluid processing device 51, has still kept green after 45 days elapsed. On the other hand, the leaf put in the tap water without passing through, withered in 2 days.

(Application example 7)

**[0108]** Four (4) of the field converter (2) s were placed in four corners of a lot (about 100m<sup>2</sup>) of a private house, and one (1) field converter (2) was placed at about the center point of the lot, (the total number was 5). Or, four (4) of the field converter (2)s placed in four corners of houses built on lots of similar size, and one (1) of the field converter (2) was placed at about the center point of each of the houses, (the total number was 5).

**[0109]** Changes of the residents after the placement were observed.

**[0110]** On 15 houses, after the placement, preferred change for people was observed, such as:

Settling feeling;  
Reducing feminine menopausal disorders; and  
Deepening sleep.

5 Industrial applicability

[0111] As discussed above the field converter of the present invention can be used for various kinds of purposes, such as:

- 10 Installing in a vehicle, for fuel efficiency improvement;  
Placing in a hogger, for improving efficiency of growing hogs and reducing stress of hogs; and  
Placing in an office, a classroom and a house, for settling human feeling.

[0112] The fluid processing device of the present invention can be used for conversion of drinking water of hogs, and reduction of bad smell at hogger, installing it in water supply pipe of a hogger.

[0113] The fluid of the present invention can be used for drink and for sterilization.

20 Claims

1. A field converter comprising,  
material pieces,  
said material pieces each having an external shape of an equilateral hexagonal prism, and said material pieces each having a hole of an annular section penetrating through a base and a top thereof,  
25 an internal surface of said hole having a spiral groove,  
a material of said material piece being selected from the group consisting of austenitic stainless steel, martensitic stainless steel, platinum, gold, silver, titanium and diamond,  
said material pieces having been heat-treated,  
said material pieces being oriented in an arrangement such that the central axes thereof (said central axes each is an axis which is parallel to six sides of said equilateral hexagonal prism and perpendicular to said base and said top thereof) are parallel to each other, and  
30 said arrangement being retained.
2. A field converter as defined in claim 1, wherein,  
35 said material pieces have identical shape and identical size to each other,  
said hole having a circular prism shape, a central axis of said hole is identical with said central axis of said material piece, and  
said arrangement is one such that said bases of said material pieces makes a plane and said sides of said material pieces are adjacent to each other.
- 40 3. A field converter as defined in one of claims 1 and 2, wherein,  
said arrangement is one such that,  
said material pieces form a kind of concentric circle, and  
a drawing line linked projected points, which are caused that said central axes of the outermost circumferentially located plural material pieces of said kind of concentric circle are projected on a plane perpendicular to said central axis of said material piece, to form an equilateral hexagon.
- 45 4. A field converter comprising a plurality of said field converters as defined in one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said field converters are piled one on top of the other.
- 50 5. A field converter comprising a plurality of said field converters as defined in claim 3, wherein,  
said field converters are piled one on top of the other, and  
the central axes of the central material pieces of said kind of concentric circle arrangements are generally aligned.
- 55 6. A field converter as defined in one of claims 1 to 5, wherein, material of said material piece is SUS304 stainless steel.
7. A field converter as defined in one of claims 1 to 6, wherein, said heat-treating is such that,

the heating temperature is equal to or more than 800 °C, and  
the heating duration is equal to or more than 5 minutes.

- 5 8. A field converter as defined in one of claims 1 to 7, wherein, a length of the side of said equilateral hexagon being designated as a cross section of said equilateral hexagonal prism of said material piece, is equal to or less than 10 mm, and  
a height of said equilateral hexagonal prism is shorter than said length of said side.
- 10 9. A field converter as defined in one of claims 1 to 8, wherein, said spiral groove of said internal perimeter surface of said hole of said material piece, has a triangular screw thread shape.
10. A field converter as defined in one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the field converter is housed in a sealed container of SUS304 stainless steel.
- 15 11. A fluid processing device comprising,  
a hollow container having an intake and an outlet, and  
said field converter as defined in one of claims 1 to 9, is positioned in said container.
- 20 12. A fluid processing device as defined in claim 11, wherein,  
said central axes of the material pieces being constituent of the field converter, are generally aligned with a principal stream direction of processed fluid which pass through said container.
- 25 13. A fluid processing device as defined in claim 12, wherein, said fluid is liquid, and  
said fluid processing device is connected to a service pipe to supply said liquid, and said liquid is pressurized comparing with surrounding atmospheric pressure in said pipe.
14. Fluid being passed through said fluid processing device as defined in one of claims 11 to 13.
- 30 15. Fluid as defined in claim 14, wherein said fluid is water.

Fig. 1

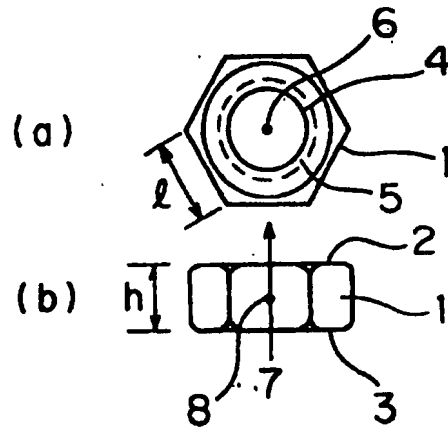
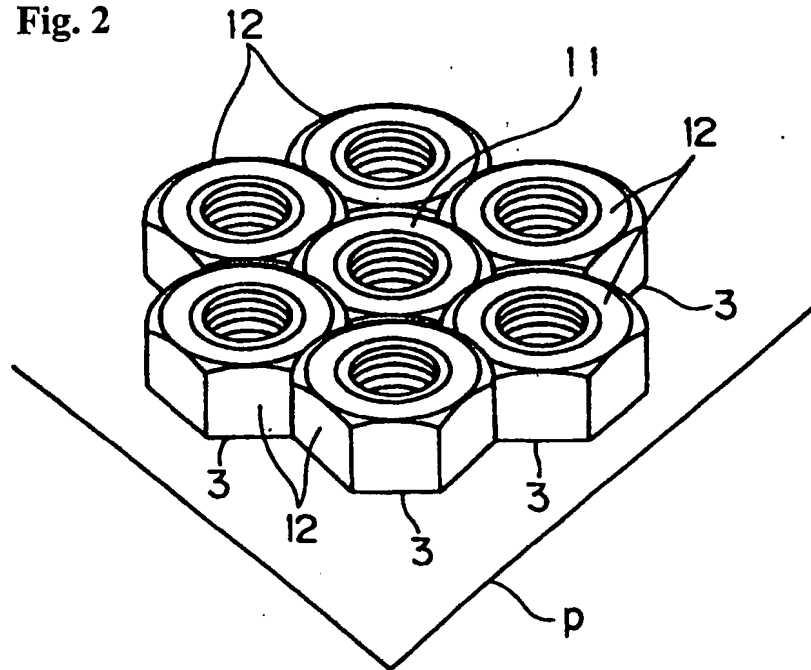


Fig. 2



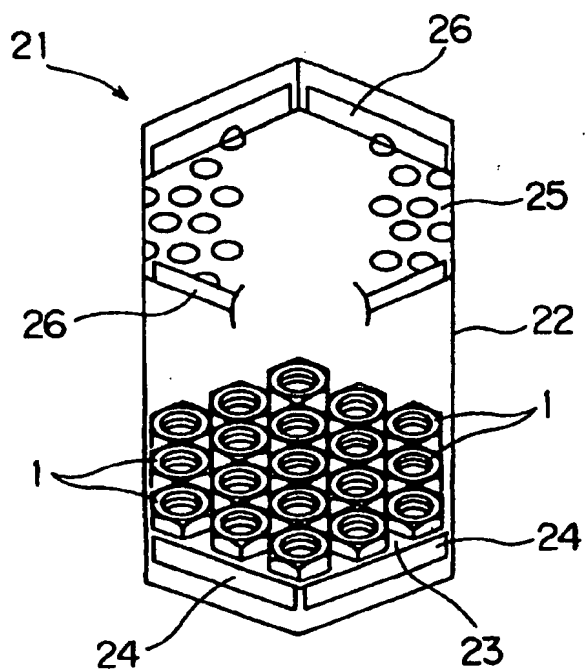


Fig. 4

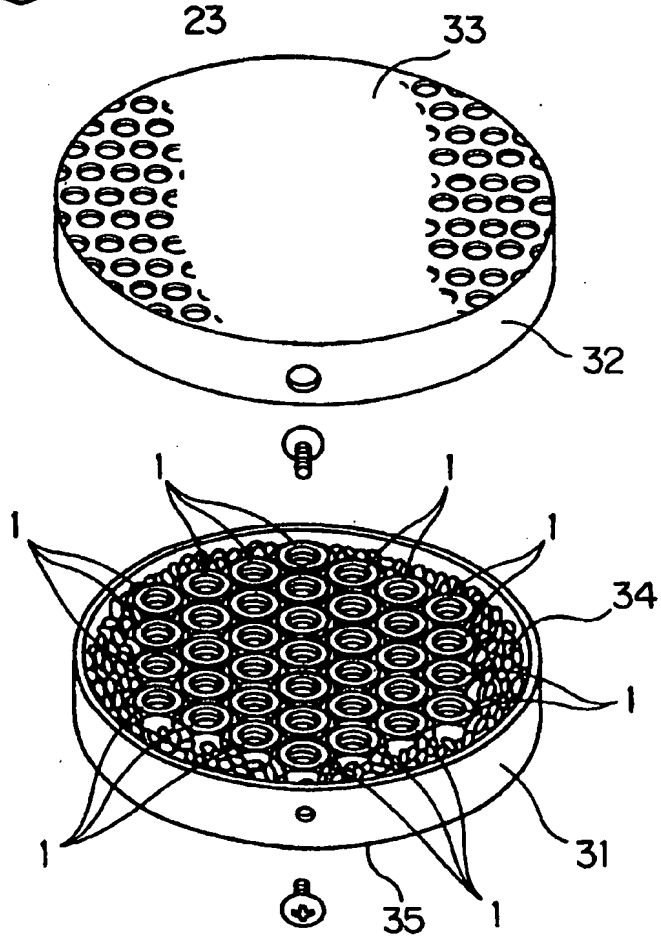


Fig. 5

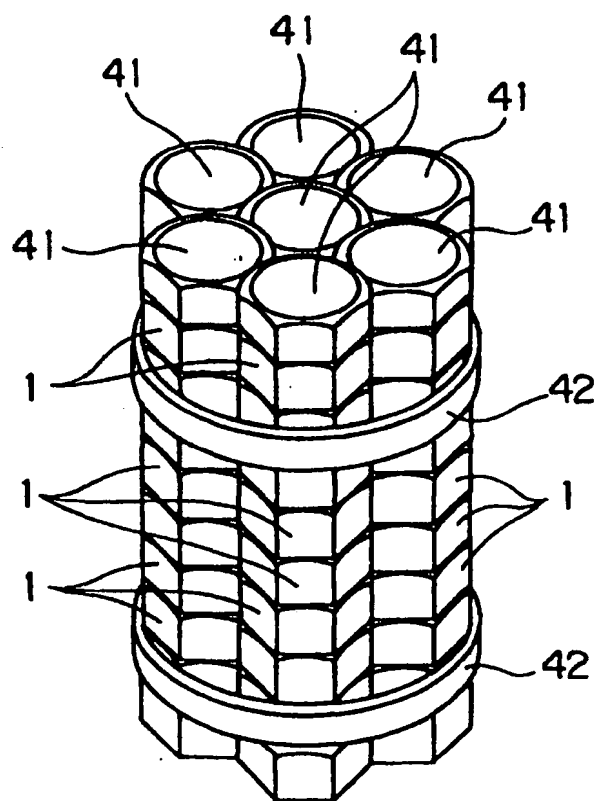




Fig. 6

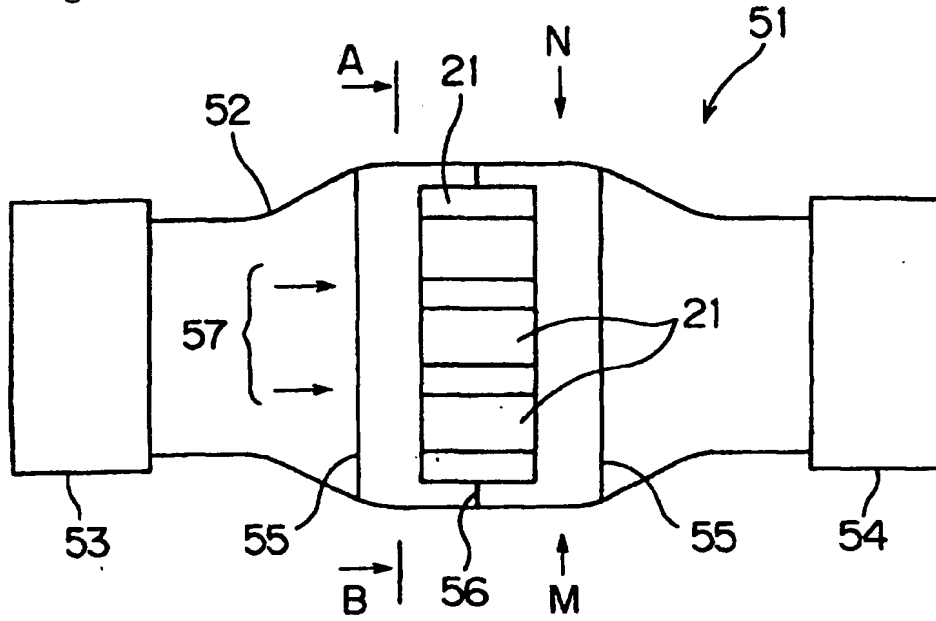
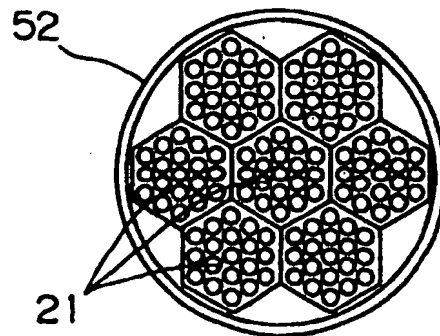


Fig. 7



## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP02/13473

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> Int.Cl <sup>7</sup> B01J19/08, C02F1/68, F02M27/02		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b> Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int.Cl <sup>7</sup> B01J19/08, C02F1/68, F02M27/02		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1926-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2003 Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2003 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2003		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) WPI (DIALOG)		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5304423 A1 (Norton Chemical Process Products Corp.), 19 April, 1994 (19.04.94), & JP 6-190273 A	1-15
A	JP 8-281027 A (Bridgestone Corp.), 29 October, 1996 (29.10.96), (Family: none)	1-15
A	Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 78806/1988 (Laid-open No. 1219/1990) (NKK Corp.), 08 January, 1990 (08.01.90), (Family: none)	1-15
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 03 April, 2003 (03.04.03)		Date of mailing of the international search report 22 April, 2003 (22.04.03)
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office		Authorized officer
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